354 The kitchen always has a hearth on the ground, usually made with six stones (parángua), arranged as in figure 15. Infrequently, the hearth or stove is of clay (fig. 16). Space is provided for three fire places, one (fig. 15, *b*) for the *comal* or tortilla baking dish, and two (*a*–*a*) for cooking pots. This hearth is usually at one side of the structure.

[373] Near the fire a branched stick (čuríŋgu) is set in the ground; on this stick pitch-pine splinters (k'uerámu) are burned for light at night. At the back of the kitchen are one or two shelves,

415 352 "*tinajera*," (plátu jatákua). On the upper are the old ollas and large vessels. On the bottom are new ollas (pureči), plates (plátu), jars (iɕamatarakua), wooden spoons (ioɹésa), and knives (kučó). Below the shelves on the ground, are the three-legged metates (iauári), *molcajetes* (jiúmatakua), *comales* (eróksa), and large water jugs (k'amúkua), including one set on a fiber ring (uanɕari) containing drinking water. Also on the ground are baskets (ɕakiáta), tortilla baskets ("tascal," kuatása), and gourds (uɹáni). Either on the floor or on the shelf may be wooden bowls (batieča), other types of baskets (ɕakiáta kanímu

[439] and šúndi, "*chúndi*"), and fire fans (p'unítatarakua). All the manufactured articles are imported.

352 The metate, when in use, is placed on a plank

[513] beside the fire. At night, it is removed and mats are spread out for sleeping.

[p. 22 b]

3:Beals, Carrasco & McCorkle E-5 (1940-1942) 1944
NU34 Tarasco NU34
Sierra Tarascans

USES OF THE TARASCAN HOUSE

STORAGE

343 251 The Cherán house is really a storehouse. The loft and, sometimes, the lower floor are employed for storage of crops and food reserves. The lower floor is used for the storage of clothing, furniture not in immediate use, and for the family altar and the image of the saint. On occasion, it may be used as a sleeping room for guests. Supplementary sheds also may be used for crop storage, especially for fodder for animals.

SLEEPING AND COOKING

362 574 Cooking and eating is all done in the kitchen. Guests may be fed in the kitchen, outside, on the house veranda, or in the house. Female visitors are usually entertained in the kitchen. Male visitors are more apt to be entertained outdoors or on the house veranda, depending on the weather.

362 513 In mountain towns, sleeping is always in the

3:Beals, Carrasco & McCorkle E-5 (1940-1942) 1944
NU34 Tarasco NU34
Sierra Tarascans

USES OF THE
TARASCAN HOUSE

362 513 kitchen. With few exceptions, the entire family sleeps on mats about the fire. Cold weather and lack of bedding are given as the reasons for this. Even where a masonry-adobe structure with a bed exists, the family normally sleeps in the kitchen.

362 On ceremonial occasions modifications occur. The house to some extent becomes a center of activities, while cooking will move into the open or under supplementary sheds. These occasions are not many. In the main, family life takes place outdoors when the weather permits; in the kitchen when it does not. The term "house" in practice is a euphemism, and some members of the family may not enter the structure for days at a time.

592 362 125 ## HOUSE SIZE AND HOUSEHOLD SIZE

A survey of Cherán houses was made to determine the relationship between size of buildings